



City of Oak Park Heights

Tree City USA

Third Quarter 2014 Newsletter

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Volunteers Needed for Playground Build!

Playful City USA is a national recognition program honoring cities and towns across the nation that are creating an agenda for play. The Playful City USA program is a unique self-assessment tool that assists communities in identifying local play assets and play deficits, and in developing a rigorous action plan driven towards increasing quality, quantity, and access for play in your city or town.

Once again the City of Oak Park Heights was awarded the 2014 Playful City USA designation. The City is committed to providing the community with areas to play and increase physical activity and has developed a local action plan to increase the quantity and quality of play in the City. The City of Oak Park Heights was selected for the designation because of its commitment to children and play.

The City of Oak Park Heights is seeking volunteers for a community playground build of a playground in the City at 8:00 a.m. on July 12, 2014 at Swager Park (14290 58th Street North).

Volunteers will help prep the playground site, install the playground materials, and finish the area for use. All tools and materials will be provided. Water and food will be available for the volunteers. This is an exciting opportunity to give back to your community!

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Deputy Clerk Jenni Pinski at 651-439-4439.

Summer watering ban—even/odd schedule

Summer is here! It is time to remind everyone that Oak Park Heights has an even-odd watering ban except for the watering of new sod and young trees. While the City's water supply is adequate, the regulation is intended to conserve water and balance demands on the City's water system.

To secure the conservation of municipal water as a resource for the benefit of the people of the City of Oak Park Heights, all water sprinkling and irrigation systems and practices shall be regulated to allow water sprinkling and irrigation systems to operate in the following manner: as to all properties which property address ends in an even number, those properties will be allowed to sprinkle or irrigate on even numbered calendar days. As to all properties whose property address ends in an odd number, their right to use sprinkling and irrigation systems shall be limited to calendar number days ending in odd numbers.

25 Tips to make your home fire wise (from Bayport Fire Chief Mark Swenson)

Access

The access to your home not only affects how easily firefighters can reach and protect your home, but how easily other emergency vehicles can find and reach your home. It starts with signage. Your local fire department may know where your house is, but assisting departments won't easily find your home if your address is not visible from the road.

TIP 1: In mid-summer, when vegetation is fully leaved, go to the street and see if you can read your address. If you can't, you may need to move the sign or make it bigger. Remember that at times smoke or darkness may make it harder to see your address. Once firefighters find your home, they need to be able to get to it. If your driveway is less than 150 feet long, firefighters can reach your home from the street. Your driveway should be at least 12 feet wide and be clear of branches 14 feet up. Longer driveways need to be 20 feet wide. The driveway should also have a firm, all-weather surface and any bridges or culverts should be rated to 10,000 pounds. Curves in long driveways need to be gentle to accommodate large emergency vehicles. Long driveways also need a turnaround near the house. Without a good access, and escape route, firefighters will not endanger themselves to save your home.

TIP 2: Widen your driveway to at least 12 feet, and prune overhanging branches to a height of 14 feet. If your driveway is longer than 150 feet, widen it to 20 feet. Also make sure your driveway has a solid driving surface and all culverts and bridges can accommodate heavy fire trucks.

TIP 3: If your driveway is over 150 feet long, make sure there is a large turnaround near the house. The turnaround radius should be at least 30 feet.



Site

The site your home is on is even more critical than the access. In rural areas, fire departments are seriously understaffed for handling large wildfires with hundreds of homes at risk. Your home may need to stand without firefighter protection. How your home is situated on the lot will determine whether it can survive alone and also whether firefighters can defend it. The critical area is the thirty feet directly surrounding your home. This is called the home defensible zone. If there are any outbuildings within these thirty feet, the home defensible zone needs to be extended thirty feet beyond those buildings. Inside the home defensible zone, anything flammable needs to be removed or modified.

TIP 4: Look at the trees. If the trees are predominantly evergreens, which are highly flammable, a ten-foot minimum space between the crowns (branches of adjacent trees) should be maintained. This keeps fire from jumping through the crowns. Also make sure you maintain this distance from tree to house. You may need to remove a few trees.

TIP 5: Look at the vertical arrangement of the vegetation. Is there continuous fuel (grass, leaves, branches) reaching from the ground to the crowns of the trees? This is called ladder fuel because it provides a "ladder" for fire to climb from the ground to the crown. Eliminate this ladder fuel by mowing tall grass, trimming shrubs and pruning the lower branches off trees up six to ten feet.

TIP 6: That firewood pile so conveniently placed by the back door should be moved outside the home defensible zone by March each year. Sparks from a wildfire can easily catch in firewood piles, and the intense heat of those burning piles next to the house will catch the house on fire.

TIP 7: Each spring clean leaf and needle fall that accumulates in foundation plantings, next to buildings and under decks. Take special care to clean out dead leaves from arborvitae next to buildings. Better yet, replace those arborvitae with leafy plants.

TIP 8: Use rock and stone landscaping materials next to buildings.

TIP 9: Clean up the home defensible zone. Remove old cars, lumber piles, downed trees and other debris. Is there enough space for firefighters to protect the backside of the home? Remove obstructing debris and trees and make sure fences have easily accessible gates.

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TIP 10: Keep the lawn watered and mowed short (3 inches or less) on all sides of all buildings. A short, green lawn will not carry fire.

TIP 11: Clear a 10 foot space around propane tanks. Keep this space in gravel, rock or short, well-watered grass. Propane tanks should be located at least 10 feet from the home. As we look beyond the thirty-foot home defensible space, the woods one hundred feet beyond our house is another thing to look at. Reducing fuels in this area will reduce the intensity of an approaching wildfire. Trees might need thinning (removal of some) to increase their spacing. This is especially important for evergreens, which typically have been planted or naturally seed at high densities. Pruning the remaining trees up six to ten

feet and reducing underbrush can also help reduce wildfire intensity.

TIP 12: Remove enough evergreen trees in the 100 feet perimeter of the house, so their branches are at least 10 feet apart. Prune the lower branches of the remaining evergreens up six to ten feet, but no more than 1/3 of the total live crown.



Structure

The next factor to look at is the structure itself. Most of the home modifications needed to further reduce wildfire risk can be expensive. They include residing with brick, stone, stucco or steel, replacing shake roofing with class A shingles or steel, and enclosing foundations with steel or masonry. Some less expensive modifications can be made to other parts of the home.

TIP 13: When updating your home, consider less flammable materials such as brick, stone and metal for roofing and siding.

TIP 14: Does fireplace chimney have an effective spark arrestor? Inspect your chimney annually for cracks in the brick and liner. Clean fireplace and wood stove chimneys at least twice annually.



TIP 15: Clean the roof and gutters of leaves, needles and other debris each spring. Clean accumulations of leaves from windowsills.

TIP 16: Make sure the soffits are enclosed with a solid barrier and that vents are screened with a fine mesh to keep out flying embers.

TIP 17: Radiant heat from a large wildfire can actually ignite sheer curtains inside of homes through large glass windows. Consider closeable shutters for large windows.

TIP 18: Enclose foundations of homes, outbuildings and trailers, plus decks and overhangs with solid flame-resistant sheeting to keep sparks from igniting materials underneath.

TIP 19: Make sure you have smoke detectors on each floor of your home and check them each fall to make sure they work.

Burning Practices & Other Fire Hazards

The burning practices of you and your neighbors can contribute to the risk of home loss from wildfire. The number one cause of wildfires in Minnesota is escaped debris burning fires.

TIP 20: Consider using composting.

TIP 21: Make sure recreational fires are made in a fire-safe pit or container and completely extinguished before leaving. Before lighting any outdoor fire, check for local restrictions and permit requirements. Avoid lighting fires when High winds, high temperatures and low humidities are present or predicted.

TIP 22: Do not dispose of ashes until they are cold to the touch.

TIP 23: Store gasoline, oily rags and other flammable materials in approved safety cans. Keep those safety cans in a fire-resistant metal or brick building or your garage.

TIP 24: Are there any branches close to power lines on your property? Ask the power company to clear them.

TIP 25: Make sure motorized garden equipment, such as lawnmowers and chainsaws have approved and functioning spark arrestors.

BAYPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT IS HIRING

Bayport Fire Department is seeking motivated and dedicated community members for service as paid, on-call firefighter/first responders.



Consider the following as you ponder this decision:

- **Mandatory classroom training** includes **Fire Fighter I** (100 hours) and **First Responder** (48 hours) at an accredited institution within your first two years of joining. Classes are offered frequently throughout the area on evenings and the Bayport Fire Department will pay for your training and reimburse your mileage.
- Members are required to **attend 75% of regularly scheduled drills**. Drills are offered every second and fourth Monday of the month from 6 pm – 9 pm with make-up drills running on the third Saturday of each month from 8am – 11am.
- Members are required to **participate in 25% of all calls on a yearly basis**. Bayport Fire Department runs approximately 900 calls per year, with the vast majority consisting of EMS runs. Most calls last between 30 – 45 minutes.
- Pay is on an hourly basis with minimum of 1 hr pay and max of 5 hr pay per call. **Pay rate is \$13/hr**. Members are also paid for training.
- Members **must live within 10 minutes of the Fire Station**
- **Bayport Fire Department Pensions** are well-funded and members become partially vested after 10 years of service and fully vested after 20.
- Although joining Bayport Fire Department is a big commitment that must be weighed by you and your family, time remains plentiful for our members to enjoy family, friends, and their careers.

APPLY NOW! Email inquiries to: Hiring@bayportfire.org

What's included in trash pickup?



In addition to the typical garbage and recycling pickup, the City also covers the disposal of yard waste, large household items, and 'white-goods' such as televisions, refrigerators, couches, chairs, desks, water-heaters, stoves, dishwashers, dryers, etc. for single family residences and complexes with four units or less in Oak Park Heights. In order to have these items picked up in a timely fashion, please contact Judy Tetzlaff at City Hall, 651-439-4439, at least two days prior to collection day so that the special truck may be dispatched to your home. If you receive a bill from Veolia for these additional services, please call the City Administrator at 651-439-4439 as most, if not all, of these items are covered under the City's contract, and you should not be billed.

Some items are not included in your monthly fee are extra bags of garbage not placed in your container. The City's waste hauler, Veolia, will bill you \$1.50 per bag. Some other items that are picked up for a fee are sinks, toilets and construction debris. You will be billed by Veolia at a regulated rate as monitored by the City.

REMINDER!!

Waste and Recyclable pick-up is every THURSDAY. However, if one of the six holidays—New Years Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas—falls on a weekday, collection may occur on FRIDAY of that week.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Fall Clean-up is Saturday, October 4, 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Emerald Ash Borer

Emerald ash borer (EAB) has been found on the East side of St. Paul. It has not been confirmed yet in Oak Park Heights, but may be in this area. If you have an ash tree in your yard which is in good condition and important to your landscape in terms of beauty, shade, etc., you should consider having the tree treated with an insecticide to protect it against EAB starting this year or next. If the tree has a trunk 12 in. in diameter or greater, it is best to have an insecticide such as emamectin benzoate ("Tree-

age") injected by a professional tree service with experience in tree injection. Examples of several such tree services are: St. Croix SavATree (formerly St. Croix Tree Service), S&S Tree Specialists, and Rainbow Tree Care.

Do not move ash wood with intact bark from one area to another, as this is one way that emerald ash borer is easily spread. If you have an ash tree you think should be removed, contact the Arborist.

Oak Wilt

Oak trees can be pruned up to April 1 in most years. Due to insect transmission of the oak wilt fungus to fresh wounds on healthy oaks, oaks should not be wounded or pruned from April 1 to July 1. If they are wounded during the growing season (April 1-October 1), the wounds should be painted with latex house paint to prevent oak wilt infection. It is best to prune oaks between October 15 and March 15.

Canker Diseases of Trees

There are a number of fungi which can cause canker diseases of trees. These diseases often look like sunken areas in branch unions or the main trunk. There may be decay associated with the canker, or open wound. Some common canker diseases on trees and shrubs are: Cytospora canker on spruce – usually looks like dead branches in the lower portion of the tree and there may be white, dried sap (resin) on the outside of the bark. Nectria canker on honeylocust – often appears like a sunken wound in branch or trunk unions. The portion of the branch above the canker may be dead. Cryptodiaporthe canker on pagoda dogwood – affected branches are usually dead and appear orange due to the powdery spores on the surface of the canker. Black knot of cherry – looks like a 'blackened corn dog' on the branches. There is no fungicidal treatment which is very effective on canker diseases. The best treatment is to prune the affected branch beyond where you see the wound or discoloration, or at the main trunk. Wiping pruner blades with a 10% bleach/water solution after each cut may help prevent transfer of the fungus to new wounds. Always prune woody plants during dry weather, if pruning from April to October. Spores of canker fungi are released during wet weather and can easily re-infect newly cut wood.

Boulevard Trees

Oak Park Heights will again be planting boulevard trees in August 2014. If you are interested in getting a new or replacement boulevard tree, contact the Arborist. She can come out and take a look at the frontage of your property and see if there is room for a new tree. Requests for new trees for 2014 can only be taken until June 20th after which time a list will be started for tree planting in 2015.

Tree Problems?

If you are an Oak Park Heights resident, and have a problem with a tree or shrub, such as an insect or a disease, have planting questions, or just want to have a plant identified, call Dr. Kathy Widin, the OPH Arborist, at 439-4439 Ext. 1106. She can either answer your question over the phone or make an appointment for a site visit. This service is paid for by the City of Oak Park Heights.



Attention Pet Owners

Leash Law Reminder

There have been reports of dogs not leashed and acting aggressively toward other walkers on City trails, specifically at the new Oak Park Crossing Park. The City of Oak Park Heights has a leash law in effect that prohibits pets from running at large. Any dog or cat that is off the premises of the owner and not under the physical control by leash of the owner or another designated person is in violation of this Ordinance.

When you are out walking your pet, please remember to bring a plastic bag. Pet owners are required by City Ordinance to clean up pet waste on public and private property. Removal and proper disposal of pet waste helps keep our City clean and healthy.

Pet Licenses

All dogs and cats in the City for more than 30 days are required to have a City Pet License. There is no charge for this service and it could save your pet from a trip to the animal shelter. Bring proof of your pet's rabies vaccination to City Hall to receive a pet license and tag. For more information, please call City Hall at 651-439-4439. City Ordinances can be viewed on the City's web-site: www.cityofoakparkheights.com.

Parking pads and firewood storage

City Ordinance state that cars, trucks, trailers, boats, snowmobiles, water-skis, four-wheelers, motor homes and other similar items shall be parked in your garage or other accessory building, upon your driveway or an approved parking pad.

What is an approved Parking Pad?

An approved Parking Pad is a parking pad that is hard surfaced constructed of asphalt, concrete, cobblestone, paving block or crushed rock that meets minimum Class 5 material specifications and has at least a 4 inch deep base.

Designated parking pads shall extend directly from the driveway, away from the house and may be located within the front, side or rear yard setback. Parking pads must be set back at least 5 feet from rear yard property lines.

There are Limitations to What You Can Place on a Parking Pad

Your parking pad may be used for the placement of:

- No more than a total of two (2) recreational vehicles (boats, snowmobiles, etc.) or pieces of equipment (trailers, etc.), not including racing cars.
- Registered and operable passenger vehicles.
- No more than one (1) truck and/or trailer not to exceed a gross vehicle weight of 12,000 pounds, except when loading, unloading or rendering a service.
- Construction and landscaping materials currently being used on the premises.

Firewood Storage shall not be on a parking pad. Firewood shall be neatly stacked and stored in the side yard or rear yard or residential premises.

2013 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

CITY OF OAK PARK HEIGHTS

PWSID: 1820020



2013 Drinking Water Report

The City of Oak Park Heights is issuing the results of monitoring done on its drinking water for the period from January 1 to December 31, 2013. The purpose of this report is to advance consumers' understanding of drinking water and heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water resources.

Source of Water

The City of Oak Park Heights provides drinking water to its residents from a groundwater source: two wells ranging from 290 to 310 feet deep, that draw water from the Jordan aquifer.

The water provided to customers may meet drinking water standards, but the Minnesota Department of Health has also made a determination as to how vulnerable the source of water may be to future contamination incidents. If you wish to obtain the entire source water assessment regarding your drinking water, please call 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 (press 5) during normal business hours. Also, you can view it on line at www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa.

Call Public Works Director, Andy Kegley, at (651) 439-4439 if you have questions about the City of Oak Park Heights drinking water or would like information about opportunities for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of the water.

Results of Monitoring

No contaminants were detected at levels that violated federal drinking water standards. However, some contaminants were detected in trace amounts that were below legal limits. The table that follows shows the contaminants that were detected in trace amounts last year. (Some contaminants are sampled less frequently than once a year; as a result, not all contaminants were sampled for in 2013. If any of these contaminants were detected the last time they were sampled for, they are included in the table along with the date that the detection occurred.)

Key to abbreviations:

MCLG—Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

MCL—Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

AL—Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirement which a water system must follow.

90th Percentile Level—This is the value obtained after disregarding 10 percent of the samples taken that had the highest levels. (For example, in a situation in which 10 samples were taken, the 90th percentile level is determined by disregarding the highest result, which represents 10 percent of the samples.) Note: In situations in which only 5 samples are taken, the average of the two with the highest levels is taken to determine the 90th percentile level.

ppm—Parts per million, which can also be expressed as milligrams per liter (mg/l).

ppb—Parts per billion, which can also be expressed as micrograms per liter (µg/l).

N/A—Not Applicable (does not apply).



Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found		Typical Source of Contaminant
			Range (2013)	Average/Result*	
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.3-1.6	1.43	State of Minnesota requires all municipal water systems to add fluoride to the drinking water to promote strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	10.4	10.4	2.9-3.3	3.3	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

*This is the value used to determine compliance with federal standards. It sometimes is the highest value detected and sometimes is an average of all the detected values. If it is an average, it may contain sampling results from the previous year.

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	AL	90% Level	# sites over AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	.19	0 out of 20	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead (ppb) (07/19/2011)	0	15	4.9	0 out of 20	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. City of Oak Park Heights is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Monitoring may have been done for additional contaminants that do not have MCLs established for them and are not required to be monitored under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Results may be available by calling 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 during normal business hours.



Compliance with National Primary Drinking Water Regulations

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

2014 Street Reconstruction Project Update

Field work on the 2014 street reconstruction project began in late April within area "E". (SEE MAP on next page). Xcel Energy's gas installation contractor (Q3) has begun replacing gas mains and services throughout the impacted neighborhoods. The City's contractor Hardrives and its subcontractors have also begun pavement removals and water utility replacement/installation in early May. In order coordinate with other construction occurring throughout the City, the utility subcontractor New Look Construction began work on portions of Area E and then needed to move to Area C. After utility installation and during the testing period, the contractor will resume work in area E. Activity and progress as of 6/20/14 includes:

Area E- Completed Items

- Tree removal complete
- Private utility replacement/installation complete in area E
- Pavement removals complete on Perkins Ave, Penrose Ave, Upper 56th Street N and portions of 58th Street N.
- Temporary water installed in portions of area E (Except services and testing).
- Water main installation complete on Perkins, Penrose and portions of 58th St (Except services and testing).
- Sanitary sewer main repair complete on Perkins, Penrose and portions of 58th St. N.

Area E –Upcoming Work

- Water services connection and testing
- Storm sewer install on Perkins Ave
- Remainder of Area E removals and installations
- Curb and gutter
- Asphalt

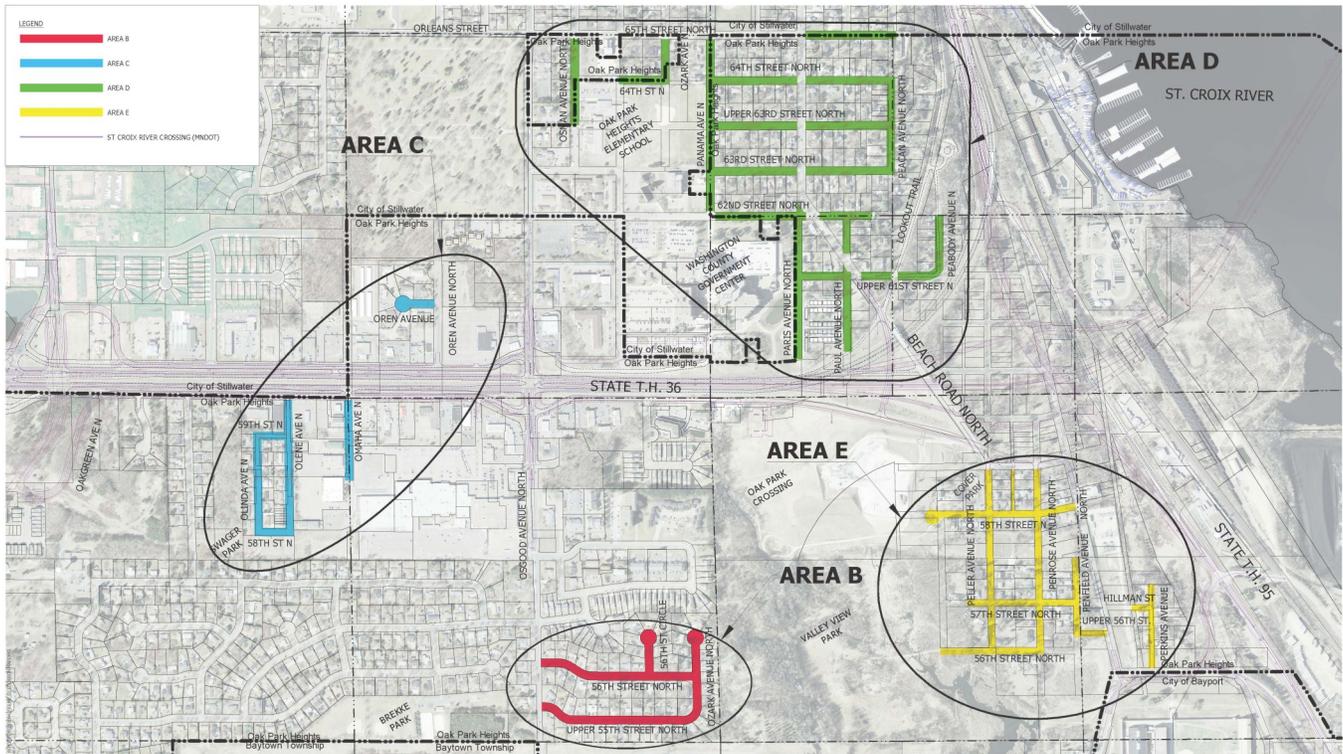
Area C – Completed Items

- Tree removals complete
- Street removals complete on Omaha Ave
- Water main and sanitary sewer main installation in progress on Omaha Ave
- Water main installation (via Drilling) on Olene Ave complete.
- Temporary water service installation throughout Area C

Area C- Upcoming Work

- Pavement stripping on Olene, Olinda, 59th and 58th Streets
- Storm sewer installation
- Water main and service install throughout area C
- Storm sewer main install
- Grading and curbing
- Asphalt

Area B and elements of area C north of STH 36 will be commencing in early August 2014.



LOCATION MAP (AREAS B,C,D & E)

CITY OF OAK PARK HEIGHTS, MINNESOTA
STREET RECONSTRUCTION

Date: OCTOBER 2013 PROJ. NO.: 193801994



FIGURE 1



Reserve a City Park Shelter

Are you thinking about having a get-together or a family reunion? The Brekke, Cover, Valley View, and Autumn Hills Park shelter buildings can be reserved free of charge for your event. The Autumn Hills Park Shelter does require a refundable \$100 deposit.



Brekke Park is located on Omar Avenue south of the former St. Croix Mall.

The park has a covered shelter building with restrooms as well as a tot lot, baseball diamonds, playground equipment, and barbeque grills.

Valley View Park is located on Osgood Avenue at the edge of the city limits. This park has a covered shelter building, picnic areas, play-grounds and a beautiful passive park area with trails, a prairie restoration area and wetlands.

Autumn Hills Park is located at 5697 Norwich Parkway off of 58th Street adjacent to the Boutwells Landing campus. The park contains meandering trails, trail access parking, and playground equipment. It has a 2,000+ square foot shelter, which includes a covered gathering area with a small kitchen/serving area, men's and women's restrooms, and a water fountain.

You may use the City's online reservation form to reserve either the Brekke Park or Valley View Park shelters. You may obtain the Autumn Hills Park Shelter reservation documents and information online as well. Or, you may call or visit City Hall anytime to reserve any of the shelters for your next event!

Mind your grill

Use of a gas or charcoal grill on a balcony can put an entire building and its occupant's life safety at risk of a fire.

According to a November 2011 published study by the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA), during the period of 2005 through 2009, over 50 percent of structural fires relating to BBQ grills occurred in a courtyard, terrace, or exterior balcony deck area. More than half of these fires occurred on an exterior balcony deck.



Grill and BBQ Safety Tips:

- Check propane or gas connections to the BBQ before lighting the grill. Make sure lines are not blocked or clogged.
- Be careful when using lighter fluid. Avoid wearing loose fitting clothing, and never add lighter fluid to an already lit fire.
- Keep lighter fluid, matches, and lighters out of children's reach.
- Always have a lit BBQ or grill attended by an adult. Never leave a lit BBQ unattended.
- When turning off your BBQ make sure all flames are extinguished properly. Turn off gas line or propane line connections to grill. If using charcoal make sure coals are full extinguished. Douse coals with water and stir them to ensure there are no hidden embers.
- Dispose of hot coals properly. Never put hot coals in plastic, wood, or paper containers, and make sure coals are full extinguished before discharging them.
- All BBQs and grills emit carbon monoxide fumes including charcoal grills. Never grill or BBQ in an enclosed area where carbon monoxide poisoning can occur.

For more information about fire safety, visit the National Prevention Association's website at <http://nfpa.org/>

St. Croix Crossing Construction Update

Work is well underway on all aspects of the St. Croix Crossing projects. Below are several progress updates.

Minnesota Approach Road Work (See Map):

- Phased construction on Hwy 36, its frontage roads and the north end of Hwy 95 continues. The following activities should be complete by early July:
 - * Construction on Osgood Ave north of Hwy 36
 - * Construction on the N. Frontage Road between Northwestern Ave and Osgood Ave, except near Greeley Street
 - * Construction on the S. Frontage Road east of Osgood Ave
- Crews plan to make the following traffic switches by early July:
 - * Single-lane traffic on Hwy 36 switches to the newly constructed westbound lanes
 - * Single-lane traffic on Hwy 95 switches to the newly constructed northbound lanes
- Crews will finish work on the areas north of Hwy 36 before moving to the remaining areas south of Hwy 36. These include Osgood Ave, Oakgreen Ave and new Hwy 36 eastbound lanes.
- Construction on the S. Frontage Road west of Osgood Ave will begin in late-summer 2014.
- Work on existing Hwy 36, Hwy 95 and adjacent roads should be complete by the end of 2014. The new ramp from Hwy 95 to Hwy 36 be complete in 2015.

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Bridge Work:

St. Croix Crossing bridge construction is underway at all five pier locations on the St. Croix River and at all seven pier locations on Minnesota land. Night work began in June and will continue into fall.

In the coming months, crews will build up all Minnesota approach and main river bridge piers to their full height. Crews also anticipate beginning work on the single pier that will sit on the Wisconsin bluff.

The new bridge will be made up of about 1,000 pre-cast segments, which will become the bridge deck driving surface. At the on-site casting yard near the Hwy 36/95 interchange, crews have readied the work site to prepare for casting the approach/ramp segments – about 350 segments total. A second yard exists at Grey Cloud Island near Cottage Grove where crews will cast larger segments for the main river bridge. The casting process will begin in 2014 and continue into next year.

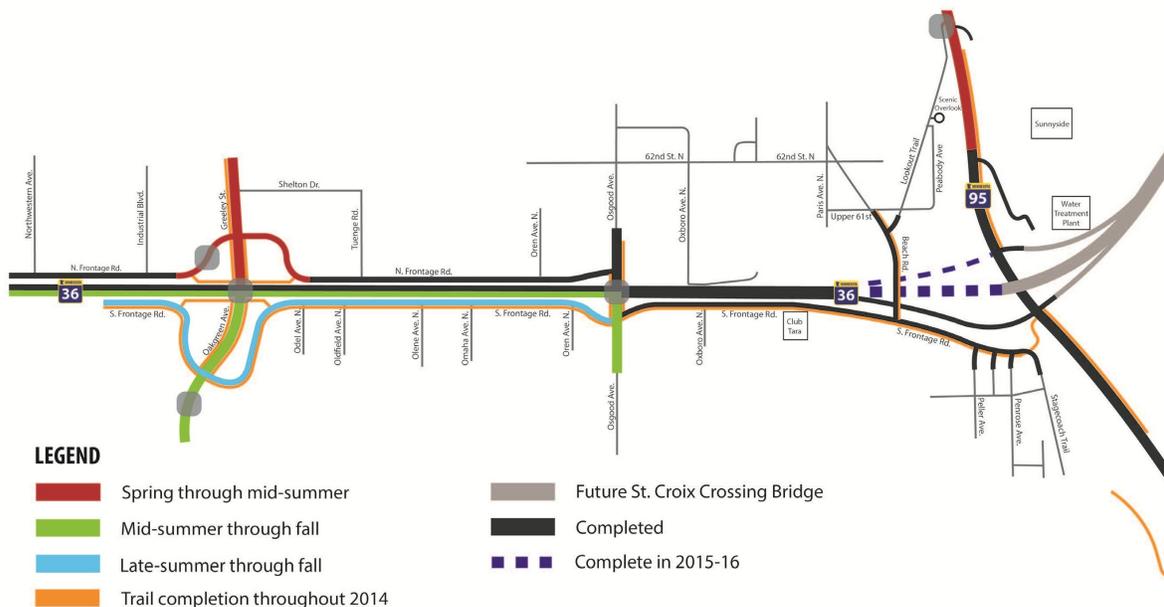
Learn more about how the bridge deck will come together at www.mndot.gov/stcroixcrossing. The project website features design and construction information, project background, maps, video, photos, resources for business, and a live look at construction through a webcam.

Stay connected

- Visit the project website: www.mndot.gov/stcroixcrossing (Sign up for weekly email updates)
- Call the hotline at 1-855-GO-CROIX (462-7649)
- Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/saintcroixcrossingmndot
- Follow us on Twitter @stcroixcrossing
- Stop by the office at 1862 Greeley St. S., Stillwater

St. Croix Crossing Highway 36 & Highway 95
TENTATIVE 2014 Construction Phasing

As of July 2014



LEGEND

- Spring through mid-summer
- Mid-summer through fall
- Late-summer through fall
- Trail completion throughout 2014
- Short-term partial closures expected
Oakgreen/Greeley and Osgood intersections will never close at the same time
- Future St. Croix Crossing Bridge
- Completed
- Complete in 2015-16

For more information about the St. Croix Crossing Project:

Call the project hotline
 1-855-GO-CROIX
 1-855-(462-7649)

Visit the project website
www.mndot.gov/stcroixcrossing

Stop by the project office
 1862 Greeley St. S.
 Stillwater, MN 55082

* All scheduling is tentative and subject to change

Storm Preparedness in Oak Park Heights

Residents should be advised that the City of Oak Park Heights maintains an Emergency Preparedness Plan that will be implemented in the event the City experiences a storm, similar to what recently occurred in the City of Hugo. The City's Police and Public Works Departments, along with the Bayport Fire Department would immediately implement the strategies as outlined.

Generally, it is anticipated that water and sewer services will be operational as these facilities are underground, but the City may implement emergency water consumption practices should direct power be lost to the City's two wells. This would basically only allow household use, not the sprinkling of lawns or car washing, etc. The City maintains back-up generation power that can operate wells and sewerage lift-stations, but again these can only accommodate typical household usage.

Downed power lines can be the most dangerous aspect of storm clean-up, and residents are requested to not make attempts to clear tress, limbs and braches that may be entangled in power lines. Generally, the electricity distributions system in the City as operated by Xcel Energy lie underground in most areas, however extreme caution should be taken until trees and limbs are first verified as safe for removal.

Residents and businesses are encouraged to have an Emergency Preparedness Kit that will provide relief and resources in the event of a storm event and/or where electricity outages may be several days. Please visit www.codeready.org for a listing of what every household or place of business should have in their Emergency Preparedness Kit.

Lastly, in the event of a severe storm, you should contact City Hall at 651-439-4439 for information on clean-up and response. Or, if you are able, check the City's website for "Storm Response Information" as this will be updated regularly.

Above all, patience and neighbors helping each other will result in the most effective and efficient clean-up/response to any disaster, large or small. The City will do its part to ensure a quick return to normalcy.

Things to know about Washington County's Warning Sirens

There are 62 sirens in Washington County. The Washington County Sheriff's Department tests all sirens at 1:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month from March through October. The criteria for activating the sirens is as follows: when a tornado warning is issued for Washington County by the National Weather Service; when the National Weather Service indicates sustained wind speed of 76 miles per hour or more; or when a City or County Public Safety Official requests activation due to imminent danger to life and/or property.

Monitor weather information sources and watch

the weather itself for any changes that could endanger you or those around you. Make preparations to initiate your emergency plans. Consider canceling outdoor activities. If you are in a mobile home, travel trailer or recreational vehicle, consider moving to shelter as the storms move into your area, before warnings are issued, especially if these are fast moving storms. Stay informed and be prepared.



CLIP AND SAVE!
July/August 2014
Summer Park Activities Schedule

All events are free! Look over the following schedule, and mark the dates on your calendar. Please check the City's website for further updates on summer programming in the parks.

All ages are welcome to attend the activities. Children under six must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration is appreciated for the craft activities. E-mail Gina at gzeuli@q.com with number and ages of children attending.

July 1

Craft in the Park – Painting Ceramic Banks: Brekke Park, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

July 8

Family Bingo, play for candy and prizes: Brekke Park, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

July 15

Minnesota Zoomobile Animal presentation: Autumn Hills Park, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

July 22

Craft in the Park – Decoupage and Chalkboard painting: Brekke Park, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

July 24

Family Movie in the Park: Autumn Hills Park. Movie begins at dark. Popcorn/beverages available for purchase.

July 29

Magic Performance and Balloon Twisting: Autumn Hills Park, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

August 5

Craft in the Park – pillowcase/shirt/bag decorating: Autumn Hills Park, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

August 12

Mad Science Presentation: Autumn Hills Park, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

August 19

Craft in the Park – stepping stones: Brekke Park, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

August 21

Family Movie in the Park: Autumn Hills Park. Movie begins at dark. Popcorn/beverages available for purchase.

August 26

Craft in the Park – plants and planters: Autumn Hills Park, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

City of Oak Park Heights

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14168 Oak Park Blvd. N.
PO Box 2007
Oak Park Heights, MN 55082
Phone: 651-439-4439
Fax: 651-439-0574

Police non-emergency: 651-439-4723
Police Emergency: 911

Office Hours:
Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
excluding legal holidays

MAYOR

Mary McComber: 351-7879

COUNCILMEMBERS

Chuck Dougherty: 491-0419
Mike Liljegen: 351-2742
Mike Runk: 439-5458
Mark Swenson: 270-5385

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Visit our Website!

www.cityof oakparkheights.com

*The Oak Park Heights
newsletter
is published by the City
of Oak Park Heights.
Comments are welcome.
651-439-4439*

City of Oak Park Heights

Third Quarter 2014 Newsletter

2014 PARTY IN THE PARK

The City of Oak Park Heights invites all city residents to attend the
2014 Party in the Park!

Sunday, September 7, 2014, 1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.
Brekke Park (5500 Omar Avenue)

Come join the fun!

Ice cream sundaes and floats

Live music

Prize raffle

Children's games and activities

Promotional items from city businesses

The event is free and a great way to meet the City Council
and area business owners!

City Meetings (subject to change)

City Council:

2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Parks Commission:

3rd Monday at 6:30 p.m.

Planning Commission:

Typically the 2nd Thursday at
7:00 p.m.

Agendas and Minutes are
posted on the City's website:

www.cityof oakparkheights.com